

Message Text

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ACTION MMO-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-03
ABF-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 /050 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0020
INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 1092

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AODE, EIND, BEXP, BR
SUBJECT: JOINT COMMERCE/STATE STAFFING FOR NEW TRADE CENTER
AT SAO PAULO

REF. (A) 76 STATE 238686, (B) 77 STATE 013750

1. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS AGREED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO PROVIDE TWO AMERICAN AND FOUR LOCAL DEPARTMENT POSITIONS TO THE NEW TRADE CENTER. IN MY TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE I POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED ONE AMERICAN POSITION AND ARE REPROGRAMMING TWO LOCAL POSITIONS WITHIN COUNTRY TO THE TRADE CENTER. THE DEPARTMENT'S TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE INDICATES THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE ONE LOCAL POSITION, BUT EXPECTS US TO PROVIDE THE SECOND AMERICAN POSITION AND TO DEFER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOURTH LOCAL POSITION. THE SAME TELEGRAM INDICATES (PARAGRAPH ONE) THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS "ALLOCATED" AN ADDITIONAL AMERICAN POSITION TO THE TRADE CENTER. I REMAIN PUZZLED AS TO WHY, IF WE HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED ONE AMERICAN POSITION AND THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALLOCATED ONE, WE HAVE TO GIVE UP STILL ANOTHER SLOT TO MAKE TWO. EITHER SOMEONE'S COUNTING IS WRONG, OR THE DEPARTMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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"ALLOCATING" BACK TO US, AS AN "ADDITIONAL" POSITION, THE SLOT WE HAVE ALREADY GIVEN UP FOR THIS PURPOSE. I PRESUME THE LATTER IS THE CASE.

2. I DO NOT CONCUR IN THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL THAT WE POSTPONE THE FULL STAFFING OF THE TRADE CENTER UNTIL SOME TIME AFTER IT STARTS OPERATING. IF THE TRADE

CENTER IS TO BE A SUCCESS, I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT IT BE FULLY STAFFED FROM THE BEGINNING -- AND THIS MEANS WELL BEFORE THE OPENING EVENT ON MAY 16. THIS MEANS THAT ALL THE TRADE CENTER POSITIONS MUST BE ESTABLISHED IMMEDIATELY, IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE THE CENTER OPENS.

3. IN THE LIGHT OF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, IF THE DEPARTMENT FINDS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THE SECOND AMERICAN POSITION FOR THE TRADE CENTER, I WOULD PROPOSE ASSIGNING VAN DAN BERG, WHOSE ASSIGNMENT NOTIFICATION TO THE CONGEN E/C SECTION WE RECEIVED TODAY, INTO THE SECOND AMERICAN POSITION IN THE TRADE CENTER EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS ARRIVAL. I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE THE CONGEN E/C SECTION UNDERSTAFFED AT THIS IMPORTANT JUNCTURE. I WOULD, THEREFORE, PROPOSE RELUCTANTLY THAT THE COMMERCIAL OFFICER POSITION IN PORTO ALEGRE BE TRANSFERRED ON A LOAN BASIS TO SAO PAULO UPON THE DEPARTURE OF THE INCUMBENT BUT NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, SINCE THE E/C SECTION CHIEF IN SAO PAULO WILL BE DEPARTING ON HOME LEAVE JUNE 15. AN OFFICER COULD THEN BE PANELLED FOR THE E/C POSITION IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL NOW TO PERMIT HIM TO TAKE LANGUAGE TRAINING, IF NECESSARY, AND TO ARRIVE AT SAO PAULO AT AN EARLY DATE. I WILL WANT TO RE-ASSESS THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THIS LOAN PROPOSAL TO THE TRADE CENTER AND PORTO ALEGRE AFTER A CERTAIN TIME PERIOD, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT NO LATER THAN ONE YEAR.

4. I AM PREPARED TO PROVIDE TWO LOCAL POSITIONS BUT IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE NOT ONE, BUT TWO LOCAL POSITIONS IMMEDIATELY SO THAT THE TRADE CENTER CAN BEGIN ITS OPERATIONS WITH FULL STAFF. I WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INDICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE SINCE IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE SELECTION AND MEDICAL AND, SECURITY CLEARANCES FOR THE INCUMBENTS, OF THESE POSITIONS BE BEGUN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CRIMMINS

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